



Ready to Protect, Proud to Serve

Phone: 520-791-4852

Fax: 520-791-4433

270 S. Stone Avenue

Tucson, Arizona 85701-1917

<http://www.tucsonaz.gov/police>

On-call PIO: tucsonpdpio@gmail.com

Media Release



Roberto A. Villaseñor

Chief of Police

Date: October 15, 2011

Contact: Sgt. Matt Ronstadt

FATAL COLLISION NORTH ORACLE ROAD AT WEST RIVER ROAD ***UPDATE – OCTOBER 24, 2011***



Matthew Wayne Leiter

Sgt. Matt Ronstadt – October 22, 2011

UPDATE – OCTOBER 22, 2011

On October 21, 2011, Tucson Police Department Traffic Investigations Unit detectives located and arrested **22-year old Matthew Wayne Leiter**, of Tucson, in connection with this investigation. During the initial investigation, detectives determined that Alavez was involved in an illegal street race with another driver when Alavez caused a fatal collision. The second vehicle in the race, a dark colored late-model Chevrolet Camaro, returned to the scene momentarily, and then fled from the area before first responders arrived. Since the collision, detectives have worked diligently to identify and locate the driver of the second vehicle. Last night, detectives successfully located Leiter, who was booked into the Pima County Adult Detention Center on **one count of Leaving the Scene of a Serious Injury or Fatal Collision**, a class three felony.

(Page 1 of 3)

For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

Leiter's booking photo will be added when it is available.

Sgt. Matt Ronstadt – October 22, 2011

*****UPDATE*****

The corrected name for the male arrested reference this incident is **Damaso Alavez (21 years of age)**. He was booked into the Pima County Jail for the following felony charges: **one count of Second Degree Murder, one count of Endangerment, and one count of Criminal Damage.**



Damaso Alavez

Sergeant Maria Hawke – October 17, 2011

On October 15, 2011 at approximately 2:35 a.m., the Tucson Police Department responded to the intersection of North Oracle Road and West River Road for a reported collision with serious injuries. Officers located the collision immediately north of the intersection. Three adult males were transported to a local trauma center. Shortly after 11 a.m., the victim succumbed to his injuries. He has been identified as **29-year old Stephen Larson**, of Tucson. Next of kin have been notified.

Detectives from the Traffic Investigations Unit responded to the scene to investigate the cause of the collision. Detectives examined roadway evidence and obtained witness statements. Detectives have determined that the victim, driving a 2006 Kia Sorento, had just turned into the northbound middle lane of North Oracle after making a left turn from eastbound River Road. The suspect vehicle, a 2002 Volkswagen Passat, was involved in an illegal street race with another vehicle, and was traveling northbound in the middle lane at a very high rate of speed. The suspect vehicle slammed into the rear of the victim's vehicle just north of the intersection. A passenger in the suspect vehicle, a **22-year old male**, suffered non-life threatening injuries. The driver of the suspect vehicle, identified as **21-year old Demaso Alvarez**, of Tucson, suffered

(Page 2 of 3)

For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

non-life threatening injuries. Both were transported to a local trauma center for evaluation and treatment.

Upon his release from the hospital, Alvarez will be booked into the Pima County Adult Detention Center on **one count of Second Degree Murder, one count of Endangerment, and one count of Criminal Damage**, all felonies.

Alcohol and speed were both factors in the collision.

(Page 3 of 3)

For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.